

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 306527
ORIGIN AF-03

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DRAFTED BY:AF/E:KPGARLAND

APPROVED BY:AF/E:PGSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 2615

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306527

FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABABA 7006 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DEC 23.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 7006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, ET, US, IT, GW, FR, KE, SZ, NL, UK, CA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PROTECTING POWER

1. WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT OVERNIGHT
TO POSSIBLE PROTECTING POWER SHOULD EPMG DECIDE TO
BREAK RELATIONS ENTIRELY. FOLLOWING ARE OUR RECOMMENDA-
TIONS IN DESCENDING ORDER BOTH OF FEASIBILITY AND OF
PROTECTION OF US INTERESTS, AT LEAST FROM ADDIS
PERSPECTIVE.

A. ITALY. EPMG RELATIONS WITH ITALY SEEM TO BE IN-
PROVING NOTABLY WITH INVITATION EXTENDED TO HIGH LEVEL
DELEGATION TO VISIT ETHIOPIA ASAP AFTER NEW YEAR. ITALIAN
EMBASSY IS ONE OF LARGEST HERE AND ITALIANS
KNOW THEIR WAY AROUND AND IN AND OUT ADDIS AS WELL AS
ANY WESTERNERS. THEY COULD PRESUMABLY ALSO HIRE LOCAL
ITALIANS IF NECESSARY TO TAKE ON INCREASED CUSTODIAL
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DUTIES. THEY ARE CONSIDERED ONLY "MINOR IMPERIALISTS."
IN ADDITION, ITALIAN EMBASSY SEES THAT IT CAN NEVER
ITSELF LEAD TO BREAK WITH EPMG BECAUSE OF HOSTAGE
ITALIAN POPULATION, AND IT IS LIKELY TO STAY AROUND
AS LONG AS ANY WESTERNERS.

B. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. FRG-EPMG RELATIONS

ARE AS GOOD AS ANY WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES, PROBABLY THE BEST. GERMAN STAFF IS RELATIVELY SMALL BUT COULD BE EXPECTED TO DO JOB MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN ANY OTHERS. IT SEEMS ALMOST TOSS-UP BETWEEN ITALY AND FRG.

C. FRANCE. FRENCH EMBASSY HAS RELATIVELY LARGE STAFF, BUT GOF IS SO CAREFUL TO STAY ALOOF OF IDENTIFICATION WITH USG THAT IT MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE ON JOB. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF FRENCH EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD WHICH GERMANS AND ITALIANS HAVE.

D. KENYA. KENYA IS EXCELLENT FRIEND OF BOTH EPMG AND US. STAFF IS RELATIVELY LARGE AND WE BELIEVE THE MOST EFFICIENT OF AFRICAN EMBASSIES. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRECEDENT SETTING TO HAVE AFRICAN COUNTRY REPRESENT US AND MIGHT SERVE OUR CONTINENTAL-WIDE INTERESTS.

E. SWEDEN. SWEDISH EMBASSY IS AS WELL STAFFED AND EFFICIENT AS ANY MEDIUM SIZE EMBASSY IN ADDIS. THERE HAS BEEN AND REMAINS ENORMOUS GOOD WILL BETWEEN PRESENT SWEDISH AMBASSADOR AND US ACOMS, BUT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF STAUNCHLY NEUTRALIST SWEDEN EVER TAKING ON THIS TASK.

F. CANADA. THE STAFF IS TOO SMALL TO HANDLE JOB
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BUT IT COULD PRESUMABLY BRING IN EXTRA PERSONNEL IF WE PAID THE BILL.

G. NETHERLANDS. THE STAFF IS TOO SMALL TO HANDLE JOB BUT IT COULD PRESUMABLY BRING IN EXTRA PERSONNEL IF WE PAID THE BILL.

H. UK. HAVING TURNED DOWN THEIR SUGGESTION THAT WE STAND BY AS POTENTIAL PROTECTING POWER FOR THEM, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY UPON OUR REQUEST ALTHOUGH RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO EMBASSIES ARE EXCELLENT.

I. SWITZERLAND. STAFF IS MUCH TOO SMALL TO HANDLE JOB AND PRESENT AMBASSADOR IS FRIGHTENED FOR HIS OWN SAFETY (HAVING EVACUATED FAMILY) AND SHOWS NO NATURAL RAPPORT WITH ETHIOPIANS. IF AMBASSADOR HAD CHOICE HE WOULD CLOSE SWISS EMBASSY ENTIRELY.

2. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, NOT INFORMED ANY OF THESE EMBASSIES THAT WE HAVE LEARNED OF A THREAT TO BREAK OR TO REDUCE RELATIONS.

3. ACTION REQUEST: GUIDANCE.
MATHERON UNQUOTE VANCE

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